

IAP13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 DEC 2005

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Helmut Konopa
Application Number: Unassigned
Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith
Group Art Unit:
Examiner:
Title: REFRIGERATION DEVICE COMPRISING
CONTROLLED DE-HUMIDIFICATION

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, I am submitting a completed "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT" (*Form PTO/SB/08A*) with patents and/or publications as delineated therein attached.

DE 39 04216 discloses that, to control the cool-space temperature of a refrigerator which is designed with a normal refrigerator section (1) and a freezer section (2), a one-circuit refrigerant circulation, a compressor refrigeration unit (3), a condenser (6), a throttle member and in each case an evaporator part (4, 5) for the freezer section and the normal refrigerator section. An electronic control unit (8) ensures the regulation of the temperature of the interior space, a temperature sensor (9) being arranged in the normal refrigerator section (1) and a further temperature sensor (11) in the freezer section (2). The microprocessor-controlled control unit (8) is supplied with the temperature values from the interior space of the normal refrigerator section (1), directly from the evaporator part (4) of the normal refrigerator section (1), and from the interior space of the freezer section (2). When the temperature in the freezer section (2) exceeds a predetermined value, a recirculation air blower (12) is switched on for circulating the air in the normal refrigerator section (1). As a result, the temperature in the freezer section (2) is always held at permissible temperature values even in the case of extremely unfavourable outside temperatures or when the user has preset the desired value at a value which is too high.

JP 2 17375 discloses that to reduce a load applied on a compressor and restrain the electric power consumption of the compressor by a method wherein the operating frequency

of a fan is increased stepwisely upon driving the compressor when an energy saving mode button is actuated. An operation panel 4 is provided with an energy saving mode button, transmitting a signal to a control device 5 upon driving a compressor 7 so that the operating frequency of a fan motor device 8 supplying cold air produced in an evaporator into respective food storage chambers is increased stepwisely. When the energy saving mode button 4e is actuated, the fan motor device 8 is controlled by a timer 5a accommodated in the control device 5 so as to increase the operating frequency thereof stepwisely even when the compressor 7 is actuated. According to this method, the operating frequency of the fan is changed in accordance with the amount of refrigerant sent into the evaporator whereby a load applied on the compressor may be reduced and the electric power consumption of the compressor may be restrained.

JP 1 222177 discloses a process to reduce noise in an arbitrary time band where it is not used frequently, by operating a timer function on the handling of a 'silence' pushbutton switch, and lowering the operation frequency of a fan motor device, which drives a fan, for a specified period of time. During a normal operation status of an electric refrigerator, a judgment is made as to whether or not a silence pushbutton switch 4e is depressed. When the silence button switch 4e remain OFF, an ordinary operation is executed while a timer function 5a is set when the pushbutton switch 4e is in ON status. Then, the operation frequency of a fan motor device 7 is lowered by the invertor system identical to the control of a compressor 6. Then, a judgment is made as to whether the silence button switch is ON status or not. The release of the silence by OFF status is executed by depressing the pushbutton switch 4e again. When the silence is released, normal operation starts. When the silence is not released, a judgment is made as to whether a specified period of time passes or not based on the timer function 5a. The operation frequency of the fan motor device 7 remains low until the timer function 5a is timed up. It is, therefore, possible to reduce the noise produced by a fan 7a compared with the normal operation.

DE 101 39 834 discloses that the invention relates to a refrigeration device comprising two temperature zones (1, 2) that are cooled by condensers (5, 4), arranged in a common coolant circuit, a first (1) of said zones being equipped with a fan (9). In said device, to maintain the temperatures of the temperature zones (1, 2) within their respective target ranges, the refrigeration circuit is operated intermittently, depending on a temperature that is measured in one of the temperature zones. The fan (9) is also operated intermittently, whereby the operational and non-operational phases of the coolant circuit and the fan are determined in such a way that operational phases of the coolant circuit at least partially coincide with non-operational phases of the fan (9).

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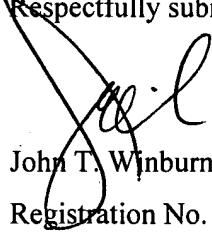
Attorney Docket No. 2003P00855WOUS

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EP 0 949 468 discloses that the actual operating parameter value for a refrigeration compressor is compared with a stored parameter value for controlling operation of an air circulating fan for a higher temperature refrigeration compartment. The control method uses an electronic control device for comparing at least one required parameter value held in a data memory with an actual parameter value obtained from the operation of the refrigeration compressor, e.g. the summated compressor running time., to provide a control signal for operation of a circulation fan, used for controlling the temperature within a higher temperature refrigeration compartment by circulation of the cooling air.

If no translation of pertinent portions of any foreign language patents or publications mentioned within the "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT" is included with the aforementioned copies of those applications, patents and/or publications, it is because no existing translation is readily available to the Applicant. As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned US patents and US patent application publications are submitted for this application which was filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted


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December 9, 2005

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

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of 2

Complete if Known	
Application Number	Unassigned 10/560156
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	Helmut Konopa
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	2003P00855WQUS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP 0 982 552	03-01-2000	Han Joo Yoo et al		✓
		DE 39 04216	08-16-1990	Dr. Peter Zinkann		
		JP 02 17375	01-22-1990	Hoshino Akihito et al		
		JP 1 222177	09-05-1989	Hoshino Akihito et al		
		DE 101 39 834	02-27-2003	Roland Maier et al		
		EP 0 859 206	08-19-1998	Daniel Witten-Hannah et al		✓

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND

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